(b) whether it is a fact that a detailed list of pending projects shows that for as many as 33 railway proejcts (some announced a decade ago), the Centre has given 'nil' funds for commencing the railway line; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor and the action proposed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI NARANBHAI RATHWA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Review and rationalization of freight tariff by railways

3008. SHRIMATI SUKHBUNS KAUR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways have lately reduced the unloading time for Box-N-Wagon from 10 hours to 5 hours, while simultaneously increasing the demurrage/welfare charges, thus considerably increasing the demurrage burden on the power plants, the main users of coal;

(b) whether his Ministry has also raised the tariff on penal over-loading to six times and changed the classification of coal freight to the detriment of the consumer; and

(c) if so, whether the Government of Punjab and other States mainly dependent on thermal power have sought review and rationalization of these freight related issues and Government response and decision thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI NARANBHAI RATHWA): (a) to (c) In order to rationalize/streamline the system, free time for loading/unloading of wagons, rates of demurrage, wharfage & punitive charges and trainload classification of coal have been revised. However, keeping in view the representation from various Rail Users, following relaxations have been permitted:

Free time for mechanized unloading of open wagon rake has been increased to 7 hours *w.e.f.* 1.1.2006.

Rate of demurrage charge has been reduced *w.e.f.* 1.1.2006, as under:

Detention in excess of permissible free time	Rate per 8-wheeled Broad Gauge (BG) wagon per hour, or part of an hour	
	Prior to 1.1 2006	w.e.f. 1.1.2006
First 24 hours	Rs. 100/-	
Next 24 hours	Rs. 200/-	75/-
Beyond 48 hours	Rs. 300/-	

Rates of punitive charge have been reduced w.e.f. 23.12.2005. Now the punitive charge will be levied at 2 times of the freight rates applicable to that commodity if the aggregate payload in a rake does not exceed the combined permissible carrying capacity of the rake. In case the aggregate payload in a rake exceeds the permissible carrying capacity of the rake, punitive charge will be levied at 3 times of the freight rates applicable to the highest class.

Blowing up of Railway Station in Bihar

3009. SHRI AMAR SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that more than 200 armed members of Maoist blew up a railway station and damaged railway tracks and overhead wires in Gaya district of Bihar, which forced the Railways to cancel large number of trains on Gaya-Dhanbad section on the 9th April, 2006;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) how much damage to the railway property was done by them and what steps are proposed to be taken to ensure the safety of railway property from the attack of Maoists in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI NARANBHAI RATHWA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. On 9-4-2006 at about 00.40 hrs. about 25-30 armed Maoists arrived at Bansinala block Hut and captured the four persons *viz.* Cabinman, a porter, one off-duty porter, on duty Ticket Contractor and took them towards South West side about 01 kilometre, after that they blasted and destroyed the Bansinala Block Halt building. They also caused two more explosions between Up and Down